

6227.0.30.001 - Microdata: Education and Work, Australia, May 2011

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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the Survey of Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 including details about the survey methodology, and how to use the CURF and the Survey TableBuilder. Data item lists and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata as well as the definitions used are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions and are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- Basic CURF. The Basic CURF allows approved users interactive access in the user's own environment (via a CD-ROM/DVD)
- Survey TableBuilder, which is an online tool for creating tables and graphs and can be accessed via the ABS website.

Further information about these services, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page on the ABS website.

Before you apply for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in this product and the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs.

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to the Basic CURF, register and apply in MiCRO.

To apply for access to Survey TableBuilder, register and apply in Registration Centre.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and the microdata products can be found in this product:

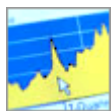
- A detailed list of data items for the Basic CURF and the Survey TableBuilder is available on the Downloads tab
- The Quality Declaration, Abbreviations and Glossary relating to these products can be found in the Explanatory Notes tab
- Other related products can be found on the Related Information tab.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Data obtained in the survey but not contained on the CURF or able to be constructed from the Survey TableBuilder may be available from the ABS, on request, as statistics in tabulated form.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

Survey methodology



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

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SCOPE AND COVERAGE

Scope

The statistics in the CURF and Survey TableBuilder files were compiled from data collected in the SEW, conducted throughout Australia in May 2011 as part of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPS consists of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys.

The publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also applies to the supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

The scope of this survey was persons aged 15-74 years, excluding the following persons:

- members of the Australian permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimates resident population figures
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia
- persons permanently unable to work
- persons aged 65-74 years who are permanently not intending to work, or not in the labour force, or not marginally attached to the labour force
- special dwelling type institutionalised persons (e.g. patients in hospitals, residents of retirement homes, residents of homes for persons with disabilities, inmates of prisons) and
- special dwelling type boarding school pupils.

Boarding school pupils have been excluded from the scope of SEW since 2005, but were included in earlier collections. The LFS in May 2011 yielded an estimated 4,400 boarding school pupils aged 15 years and over, who were excluded from the SEW.

In 2009, persons aged 65-74 who were in the labour force or were marginally attached to the labour force, were interviewed for the first time for the SEW. In May 2011 there were an estimated 323,600 persons aged 65-74 years in the labour force or marginally attached to the labour force, out of a total of 1,661,900 persons aged 65-74 years. Persons are determined to be marginally attached to the labour force if they were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified

- as unemployed, or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care was available.

The survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all state and territories, but excluded persons living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia. In 2009, persons who live in very remote areas that are not part of the Indigenous Community Frame (ICF) were interviewed for the first time for SEW. Nationally, approximately 0.5% of persons in scope of SEW in 2011 live in very remote areas that are not part of the ICF. In the Northern Territory, this proportion is 6%.

Coverage

In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each persons is associated with only one dwelling and has only one chance of selection in the survey. See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

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SURVEY DESIGN

The survey was conducted as a supplementary to the LFS. After sample loss, the sample included 39,838 respondents in 19,802 households.

Supplementary surveys are not conducted using the full LFS sample. The sample for the SEW was seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

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DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Information was collected via face-to-face or telephone interviews. Trained interviewers asked members of each household, or a responsible adult answering on behalf of other household members, detailed questions about their educational attainment and recent participation in education.

All interviews were conducted using Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI).

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WEIGHTING, ESTIMATION AND BENCHMARKING

Weighting

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from the sample survey to infer results for the total in-scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each enumerated person. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

The first step in calculating weights for each person is to assign an initial weight which is equal to the inverse probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was one in 300, then the person would have an initial weight of 300 (that is, they represent 300 persons in the population).

Estimation

Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest. Estimates of non-person counts (e.g. days away from work) are

obtained by multiplying the characteristics of interest with the weight of the reporting person and aggregating.

Benchmarking

The weights were calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population, referred to as 'benchmarks', in designated categories of sex by age by state by area of usual residence and age by labour force status. Weights calibrated against population benchmarks ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distributions of the population, rather than to the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons which may occur due to either the random nature of sampling or non-response.

The survey was benchmarked to the estimated resident population aged 15-74 years living in private dwellings and non-institutionalised special dwellings in each state and territory. People living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia were excluded. The process of weighting ensures that the survey estimates conform to persons benchmarks per state, part of state, age and sex. These benchmarks are produced from estimates of the resident population derived independently of the survey.

Due to differences in scope and sample size between this supplementary survey and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

For further information, see the Explanatory Notes in the publication Education and Work, Australia 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0).

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RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the total population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably measured as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Non-sampling error can occur at any stage throughout the survey process. For example, persons selected for the survey may not respond (non-response); survey questions may not be clearly understood by the respondent; responses may be incorrectly recorded by interviewers; or there may be errors when coding or processing the survey data.

Sampling error

One measure of the likely difference between an estimate derived from a sample of persons and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included, is given by the Standard Error (SE) which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of persons was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all persons had been surveyed and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

Another measure of the likely difference is the Relative Standard Error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

Generally, only estimates (numbers, percentages, means and medians) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. In ABS publications, estimates with an RSE of 25% to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *15.7) to indicate that the estimate should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs over 50% are indicated by a double asterisk (e.g.**2.8) and should be considered unreliable for most purposes.

In addition to the main weight (as outlined earlier), each record on the CURF also contains 30 'replicate weights'. The purpose of these replicate weights is to enable the calculation of the standard error on each estimate produced. This method is known as the 30 group Jackknife variance estimator.

The basic concept behind this replication approach is to select different sub-samples repeatedly (30 times) from the whole sample. For each of these sub-samples the statistic of interest is calculated. The variance of the full sample statistics is then estimated using the variability among the replicate statistics calculated from these sub-samples. As well as enabling variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply, replicate weights also enable unit record analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design.

Further information about RSEs and how they are calculated can be referenced in the 'Technical Note' section of the following publication relevant to this microdata: Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0). RSEs for estimates in the tables published in this publication are available in spreadsheet format, as attachments to this publication.


Non-sampling error

Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. One of the main sources of non-sampling error is non-response by persons selected in the survey. Non-response occurs when persons cannot or will not cooperate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the rate of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those persons who responded to the survey and those that did not.

Every effort was made to reduce non-response and other non-sampling errors by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, and undertaking extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

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File structure



Values	Character
30000.82	30.81
2.619.71	33.7
807.50	23
10.744.54	96
467.00	1

FILE STRUCTURE

- WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION**
- STANDARD ERRORS**
- NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES**
- POPULATIONS**

WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method of sample selection when deriving estimates. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived. Survey 'weights' are values which indicate how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

There is one weight provided: a person weight. This should be used when analysing data at the person level.

Where estimates are derived, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons in each category, and not just by counting the number of records falling into each category. If each person's 'weight' were to be ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's chance of selection in the survey or of different response rates across population groups, with the result that counts produced could be seriously biased. The application of weights ensures that the person estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex, state/territory, part of state and labour force status.

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STANDARD ERRORS

Each record on the person level also contains 30 replicate weights and, by using these weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for weighted estimates produced from the microdata. This method is known as the 30 group Jack-knife variance estimator.

Under the Jackknife method of replicate weighting, weights were derived as follows:

- 30 replicate groups were formed with each group formed to mirror the overall sample (where units from a collection district all belong to the same replicate group and a unit can belong to only one replicate group)
- one replicate group was dropped from the file and then the remaining records were weighted in the same manner as for the full sample
- records in that group that were dropped received a weight of zero.

This process was repeated for each replicate group (i.e. a total of 30 times). Ultimately each record had 30 replicate weights attached to it with one of these being the zero weight.

Replicate weights enable variances of estimates to be calculated relatively simply. They also enable unit records analyses such as chi-square and logistic regression to be conducted which take into account the sample design. Replicate weights for any variable of interest can be calculated from the 60 replicate groups, giving 60 replicate estimates. The distribution of this set of replicate estimates, in conjunction with the full sample estimate (based on the general weight) is then used to approximate the variance of the full sample.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate y , the same estimate is calculated using each of the 60 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting $y(g)$ for group number g) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate y using the formula:

$$RSE(y) = SE(y) / y \times 100\%$$

where:

g = the replicate group number

$y_{(g)}$ = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group g

y = the weighted estimate from the sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of the population total, but also where the estimate y is a function of estimates of the population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 30 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999 (cat. no. 1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 30 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

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NOT APPLICABLE CATEGORIES

Most data items included in the microdata include a 'Not applicable' category. The classification value of the 'Not applicable' category, where relevant, are shown in the data item lists in the Downloads tab.

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POPULATIONS

The population relevant to each data item is identified in the data item list and should be borne in mind when extracting and analysing data from the CURF or in TableBuilder. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Employed persons', any data item with that population (excluding the 'Not applicable' category) can be used.

For example, the CURF data items 'Status in employment in current job' (SWORKER) or 'Industry (ANZSIC 2006)' (INDCUR) are applicable to employed persons only. Therefore, either of the following filters could be used when restricting a table to 'Employed persons' only:

$SWORKER > 0$ or $INDCUR < 26$

(Note: For those data items, the 'Not applicable' categories (i.e. those persons who are not employed) are codes 0 and 26 respectively and would be excluded from either population filter shown above.)

Conversely, code 1 for the data items 'Labour force status' (LFSTATC) is 'employed persons'. Therefore, once again if the population of interest is employed persons, this data item could be used as the filter (i.e. $LFSTATC = 1$).

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Using the CURF



USING THE CURF

ABOUT THE CURF

IDENTIFIERS

CURF FILE NAMES

COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS CURFS

ABOUT THE CURF

The data included in the SEW 2011 CURF are released under the provisions of the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**. This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to release unit record data, or microdata, provided that it is done "in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation to which it relates".

The ABS ensures confidentiality of the data by:

- removing name, address and any other information that might uniquely identify an individual
- changing a small number of values - particularly unusual values - and removing very unusual records
- controlling the detail available for all records on the CURF
- excluding some data items that were collected
- controlling the modes of access and restrict access to more detailed data
- placing restrictions on how the data are used, supported by both information in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs, the undertaking signed by the head of each organisation and the terms and conditions signed by each user.

As a result, data on the CURF will not exactly match other previously published estimates. Any changes to the distribution of values are not significant and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected.

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IDENTIFIERS

Each person has a unique random identifier - ABSPID.

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CURF FILE NAMES

The 2011 Basic CURF can be accessed on CD-ROM, the RADL or ABSDL and is available in SAS, SPSS and STATA formats. The CURF comprises the following files:

Data files

- SEW11B.csv contains the data for the CURF in Microsoft Excel format
- SEW11B.sav contains the data for the CURF in SPSS format
- SEW11B.dta contains the data for the CURF in STATA format

Information files

- The Data item list contains all the data items, including details of categories and code values, that are available on the Basic CURF.
- The Formats file is a SAS library containing formats.
- The Frequency file contains documentation of the Person level data. Data item code values and category labels are provided with weighted person frequencies of each value. This file is in plain text format.
- SAS program to translate CSV file format to SAS format.
- User Guide containing a brief description of all files included on the CURF, including predictive links to the Microdata and Data item list.
- PDF including important information included on the CD-ROM.

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COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS CURFS

One new data item was collected in 2011, 'Whether highest non-school qualification was completed in Australia'.

Data items 'Level of education of study in previous year (all study)', 'Level of education of study in current year (all study)' and 'Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)' have been slightly reordered to display categories in order of highest to lowest, rather than non-school qualifications above school levels.

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Using the TableBuilder



USING TABLEBUILDER

For general information relating to the TableBuilder or instructions on how to use features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder, 2011 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

Information relating to survey methodologies, such as the counting units and weights applied to the TableBuilder dataset, are explained in the Survey methodology section.

The TableBuilder dataset contains all of the person level data applicable to the SEW. Information on the structure is provided in the File structure section.

USING THE DATA

Counting units and weights

Population estimates can be obtained from the 2011 SEW TableBuilder. When producing tables in TableBuilder, the summation option or counting unit will automatically be added to the table.

Multi-response data items

Multiple response data items allow a respondent to fall into multiple categories.

The 2011 SEW TableBuilder does not contain any multi-response items.

Data item lists



DATA ITEM LISTS

The Survey of Education and Work, 2011 (SEW) comprised a questionnaire. The questionnaire contained 9 modules and approximately 60 questions, which resulted in approximately 60 data items. Including data items obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), there were approximately 100 data items on the SEW final file.

Users intending to purchase either the CURF or the Survey TableBuilder should ensure that the data they require, and the level of detail they need, are available in these products.

CURF Data

The SEW Basic CURF contains 39,838 confidentialised respondent records from the survey. Subject to the limitations of the sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to interrogate the CURF, product tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The CURF file contains 60 data items. A list of data items available for use with the CURF, including relevant population and classification details, can be found on the Downloads tab.

For a complete list of all data items included on the CURF, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 7 worksheets;

- table of content
- population identifiers
- data items on demographic characteristics
- data items on labour force characteristics
- data items on education characteristics
- population data items
- identifiers and weights.

The data item list provides a code to all populations used in the derivations of the data items and each data item has a code associated with it to enable users to link between the two worksheets.

Survey TableBuilder Data

The SEW Survey TableBuilder file also contains 39,838 confidentialised respondent records from the survey. Data items are generally available for cross tabulation using the Survey TableBuilder, although some restrictions may apply.

The TableBuilder file contains 76 data items. A list of data items available for use with the Survey TableBuilder, including relevant population and classification details, can be found on

the Downloads tab.

For a complete list of all data items included on the Survey TableBuilder, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 10 worksheets;

- table of content
- population identifiers
- data items on demographic characteristics
- data items on labour force characteristics
- data items on education in current year
- data items on highest educational attainment
- data items on education in previous year
- data items on time left study
- data items on apprenticeships/traineeships
- population data items

The populations worksheet provides a code to all populations used in the derivations of the data items and each data item has a code associated with it to enable users to link between the two worksheets.

Conditions of use



CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering out questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page How the ABS keeps your information confidential.

CURF DATA

The release of the CURF data is authorised by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination made under subsection 13(1) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The release of a CURF must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to approve release of unit record data. All CURFs released have been approved by the Statistician. Prior to being granted access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS. The CURF Undertaking is required by legislation and states that, prior to CURFs being released to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs. Individual users are bound by the undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the conditions and restrictions in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs. Any breach of the CURF Undertaking may result in withdrawal of service to individuals and/or organisations. Further information is contained in the Consequences of Failing to Comply web page.

SURVEY TABLEBUILDER

In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1905, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of TableBuilder Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from Survey TableBuilder
- understand that all data extracted from the Survey Output Record File through Survey TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied to me and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors
- inform the ABS, through your Contact Officer, upon leaving your organisation that your access is disabled
- not to provide my Survey TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to the ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy on the ABS website. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices web page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page. Clients should familiarise themselves with the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and other related microdata information which are available via the Microdata web pages, before applying for access through MiCRO.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry page on the ABS website contains links to microdata related information to assist users to understanding and access microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

About this Release

The following microdata products are available from the Survey of Education and Work, 2011.

- Basic CURF on CD-ROM
- Survey TableBuilder

To apply for access to the Basic CURF, register and apply in MiCRO.
To apply for access to Survey TableBuilder, register and apply in Registration Centre.

These products provide data on labour force characteristics, participation in study in current and previous year, type of educational institution, level of education of study in current and previous year, highest year of school completed, level of highest non-school qualification, level of highest educational attainment, and selected characteristics of apprentices and trainees. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of the respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories. Differences in data items may exist between microdata products.

Approved users can combine information on educational attainment with labour force characteristics to enable analysis of transitions from education to work.

History of changes

29 March 2016

The Using the TableBuilder page has been updated to remove some information which is no longer relevant.

15 May 2012

The title of this product has changed to Microdata: Education and Work, Australia to

incorporate the Education and Work Survey TableBuilder. This product replaces the Technical Manual: Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0.30.002) and the Information Paper: Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0.55.001).

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Apprentice

An apprentice is a person aged 15-64 years who has entered into a legal contract (called a training agreement or contract of training) with an employer, to serve a period of training for the purpose of attaining tradesperson status in a recognised trade. In this survey, apprentices are identified by their answer to a question specifically pertaining to the Australian Apprenticeship Scheme. Note that Australian School-based Apprenticeships are excluded.

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001, ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: **Level of Education** and **Field of Education**. See Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

Certificate not further defined

Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0), **Level of Education** classification.

Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998 (Second Edition) (cat. no. 1269.0).

Educational institution

Any institution whose primary role is education. Included are schools, higher education establishments, colleges of technical and further education, public and private colleges, etc. Excluded are institutions whose primary role is not education.

Employed

Persons who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or

business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or

- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Employed part time

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Enrolled

Refers to persons registered for a course of study in the particular reference period (e.g. survey month, or previous calendar year) at an educational institution (as defined).

Field not determined

Field not determined includes inadequately described responses or where no responses were given.

Field of education

Field of education is defined as the subject matter of an educational activity. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0)

Field of Education classification. This publication presents the main field of education studied.

Field of trade

Refers to the occupation of an apprentice and is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0) Unit Group.

Higher education institution

An Australian institution providing higher education courses, e.g. universities; colleges of advanced education; institutes of advanced education; institutes of higher education;

institutes of tertiary education; agricultural colleges and some institutes of technology.

Industry

Industry data is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).

Leavers

Persons who were enrolled in a course of study for a qualification in the previous year, but were not enrolled in any course of study for a qualification at the time of the survey.

Level of education

Level of education is a function of the quality and quantity of learning involved in an educational activity. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education, 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) **Level of Education** classification.

Level of highest educational attainment

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. See the Explanatory Notes in Education and Work, Australia 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0) for how highest level is derived.

Level not determined

Level not determined includes inadequately described responses or where no responses were given.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

People who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Non-school educational institution

An educational institution, other than a secondary school. This includes higher education establishments, colleges of technical and further education, public and private colleges, etc. Institutions excluded are those whose primary role is not education.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' (as defined).

Occupation

Occupation data is classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0).

Other educational institution

Includes institutions or establishments that offer educational courses such as industry skills centres, professional or industry associations, equipment/product manufacturers or suppliers, and instances where insufficient information was available to determine the type of educational institution.

Qualification

Formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved an appropriate level of learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. Statements of attainment awarded for partial completion of a course of study at a particular level are excluded.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

School

An educational institution whose major activity is the provision of formal classes of primary or secondary education, or the provision of primary or secondary distance education.

School leavers

Persons aged 15-24 years who attended school in 2010 but were not attending school prior to the survey date in May 2011.

Starters

Persons who were enrolled in a course of study for a qualification at the time of the survey, but were not enrolled in any course of study for a qualification at any time in the previous calendar year.

Study for a qualification

The reported level of education of any study being undertaken that will lead to formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved

learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs. In this survey, if the respondent was still attending school their level of study was recorded as their current year of schooling. If the respondent had left school and was enrolled in study for a qualification they were asked the level of the qualification.

TAFE

A Technical and Further Education institution. In Victoria this may also be interpreted as Training and Further Education.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15-64 years who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
ALLS	Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CD-ROM	compact disc read-only memory
CSV	comma separated value
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
GST	goods and services tax
ICF	Indigenous Community Frame
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
nfd	not further defined
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
SE	standard error
SEW	Survey of Education and Work
SPSS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis

STATA	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UN	United Nations

Quality declaration

QUALITY DECLARATION

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the Statistics Determination section of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with CURFs can be found at the [About CURF Microdata](#) page.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see [ABS Institutional Environment](#).

RELEVANCE

Microdata from the Survey of Education and Work 2011 are available as a Basic CURF and in TableBuilder. The microdata contains information about a range of key indicators relating to the educational participation and attainment along with data on people's transition between education and work for all persons aged 15 to 64 years and persons aged 65 to 74 who are employed or marginally attached to the labour force.

As a result of this survey being supplementary to the LFS, persons excluded from the LFS were also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from this survey were persons aged 75 or older, persons aged 65-74 years who were not intending to work, persons permanently unable to work, institutionalised persons, and boarding school pupils. Persons in very remote areas that are not part of the Indigenous Community Frame (ICF) were included for the first time in 2009. Nationally, approximately 0.5% of persons in scope for SEW live in very remote areas that are not part of the ICF. In the Northern Territory, this proportion is 6%.

The type of information collected included: participation in education in the year prior to the survey, and in the survey month; labour force characteristics; type of educational institution; level of education of current and previous study; highest year of school completed; level and main field of highest non-school qualification; transition from education to work; unmet demand for education; and selected characteristics of apprentices.

The Australian Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0) was used to classify education. The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education

and Field of Education.

For more information, see Microdata: Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0.30.001).

TIMELINESS

The most recent survey of Education and Work was conducted throughout Australia in May 2011 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The ABS has been conducting similar surveys annually since 1964. Data from the most recent survey (in the form of html and data cubes) were released on 30 November 2011. A CURF for this survey is available every second year. The microdata products are released approximately 12 months after enumeration is completed.

ACCURACY

The microdata contains finer levels of detail of data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0). For more information on the level of detail provided, please see the associated data item lists.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from the microdata with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the following links:

[CURF confidentiality](#)

[TableBuilder confidentiality](#)

COHERENCE

Results from the previous survey on this topic were published in Education and Work, Australia, May 2010 (cat. no. 6227.0). Data on earlier topics can be found on the Past and Future Releases page or by contacting the Nation Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

The ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey; sound survey practice requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. Minor changes were made to the survey in 2011 to enhance the quality of the data and to reflect any changes in the education or other relevant system.

In 2009 the scope of the survey was extended to include persons aged 65 to 74 years who are employed or marginally attached to the labour force. Persons are determined to be marginally attached to the labour force if they were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and: were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care was available.

The Explanatory Notes section of Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0) provides more detailed information on the differences between the ABS Education surveys

over time.

INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product should be referred to when using the microdata. It contains information including Survey methodology, File structure, Using the CURF, Using the TableBuilder, Conditions of use and the Data item lists.

The Explanatory Notes section of the Education and Work, Australia, May 2011 (cat. no. 6227.0) includes information on survey objectives, survey methods and design, data quality and interpretation, output data items, information about the availability of results and comparability with previous surveys.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access the microdata should read the How to apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through MiCRO. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata web pages.

A full list of available microdata can be viewed via the List of Expected and available Microdata. More detail regarding types and modes of access to CURFs can be found on the CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail web page.

SEW 2011 can be accessed using TableBuilder. The Basic CURF can be accessed on CD-ROM, through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL).

Any questions regarding access to microdata can be forwarded to microdata.access@abs.gov.au or phone (02) 6252 7714.